

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 17298 160826Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /011 W
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O R 160725Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6363
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
AMCONSUL NAHA
AMCONSUL OSAKA
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN FLAG VESSEL RESCUES 32 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. THE UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGKOK
INFORMED US JUNE 16 THAT A PANAMANIAN REGISTERED
SHIP OF JAPANESE OWNERSHIP, THE TOMOCO, RESCUED 32
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT SEA. THE SHIP'S NEXT PORT OF
CALL IS BANGKOK, WHERE IT EXPECTS TO ARRIVE AT 1400
JUNE 17. IT IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BANGKOK JUNE 19 FOR
AN UNKNOWN PORT IN JAPAN WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS AT
TAU AND BINTUCU IN MALAYSIA.

2. THE UNHCR WILL OBTAIN BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE REFU-
GEES THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 17.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNHCR, WE WILL VISIT THE SHIP
SUNDAY MORNING JUNE 18 TO ESTABLISH THE CREDENTIALS OF
ANY CATEGORY REFUGEES WHO MAY BE ABOARD. OUR
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 17298 160826Z

VISIT WILL BE COORDINATED WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES WHO ALSO PLAN TO VISIT THE SHIP
SUNDAY MORNING.

4. THE UNHCR INFORMED US THAT THE FRENCH SAID JUNE
16 THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO
VISIT THE SHIP BEFORE ITS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATE.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE UNHCR TO SEEK OTHER
THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES, BUT WE EXPECT AUSTRALIA AND
THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE MAJOR ACCEPTANCE BURDEN.

6. WHILE WE WILL SETTLE FOR THE MINIMUM NUMBER POSSIBLE,
REQUEST AUTHORITY FROM DIDIR HONG KONG TO GUARANTEE
U.S. RESETTLEMENT FOR ALL REFUGEES ABOARD THE SHIP WITH-
OUT A THIRD COUNTRY OFFER BY THE SCHEDULED JUNE 19
DEPARTURE DATE.

7. WE WILL INFORM HONG KONG JUNE 19 OF THE SPECIFIC
NUMBERS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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